

10/067, 660

62 (New) A method according to Claim 61 wherein the sample is urine or another fluid that can be noninvasively obtained and the β -HBD is either (i) obtained from *Alcaligenes* or another source such that it is not inhibited by chloride ions, or else (ii) has been obtained from a source such that it is inhibited by chloride ions and is present in an excess amount from about 10 to 20 times the amount utilized when the β -HBD is not inhibited by chloride ions.

63 (New) A method according to Claim ⁶¹~~31~~ wherein the tetrazolium dye precursor ^{is}~~is~~ NBT or INT.

64 (New) A method according to Claim ⁶¹~~31~~ wherein the electron mediator is a diaphorase enzyme.

65 (New) A method according to Claim 61 wherein ingredient (c) is a nitroprusside salt.

66 (New) A method according to Claim 61 wherein ingredient (c) is a diazonium salt.

67 (New) A method according to Claim 66 wherein ingredient (c) is 4-nitrobenzene diazonium fluoborate

68 (New) A method for monitoring the level of total ketone bodies in a sample of human bodily fluid which comprises contacting said sample with a mixture comprising the following ingredients:

- a) β -HBD,
- b) NAD,
- c) a nitroprusside or diazonium salt in an amount sufficient to
 - (i) react instantaneously with and stabilize acetone in the sample,
 - (ii) also react with endogenous acetoacetate in the sample and